



Domestic Violence in Georgia

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of DV Fatalities¹	127	106	118	111	123	132	109	130

Georgia's Domestic Violence Statistics

- ◆ From 2003 through 2012, at least **1,200 Georgia citizens lost their lives** due to domestic violence.¹
- ◆ Georgia was recently ranked **12th** in the nation for its rate of **men killing women**.²
- ◆ In **18%** of the cases studied through Georgia's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project, **children witnessed the domestic violence killing**.⁵
- ◆ **Firearms** were the cause of death in **76% of the domestic violence fatalities** between 2004 and 2012.¹

65,788

In 2012, the number of crisis calls to Georgia's certified domestic violence agencies.³

71,475

In 2011, the number of domestic violence incidents that law enforcement officers responded to in Georgia.⁴

22,206

In 2012, the number of protective and stalking orders issued in Georgia.⁶

7,550

In 2012, the number of victims and children who were provided refuge in a Georgia domestic violence shelter.³

3,991

In 2012, the number of victims that made a request for shelter but request was not met due to lack of space (statistics are not collected by number of people).³

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence, also described by the terms family violence, intimate partner violence, and teen dating violence, is a widespread problem in Georgia and across the country.

The Office of Violence Against Women defines domestic violence as "a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner."⁷ Common abusive tactics include:

- ◆ physical violence,
- ◆ sexual violence,
- ◆ isolation,
- ◆ economic abuse,
- ◆ emotional abuse,
- ◆ intimidation,
- ◆ reproductive coercion, and,
- ◆ stalking.

Studies have shown that domestic violence is committed primarily by men against women; although women and men in same-sex relationships experience domestic violence at the same rates as heterosexual women.

1. Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2013). 2012 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report and fatality counts.
2. Violence Policy Center (2013). "When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data" <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2013.pdf>
3. Governors Office for Children and Families. Data provided to Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Personal communication by email, August 1, 2013.
4. Georgia Bureau of Investigation (2013). "2011 Summary Report". Retrieved from http://gbi.georgia.gov/sites/gbi.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/2011UCRSummaryReport1.pdf.
5. Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2013). 2012 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report. www.fatalityreview.com.
6. Georgia Protective Order Registry, Georgia Crime Information Center (2013). Personal Communication by email July 25, 2013
7. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW, US DOJ). <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/domviolence.htm> 2012

Murder Suicide in Georgia ¹

Category	2010	2011	2012
Total lives lost to murder/suicides, attempted murder/suicides, and murder/attempted suicides	54	36	55
Percentage of all recorded domestic violence-related deaths in Georgia	42%	33%	42%
Incidents involving a firearm	100%	89%	100%
Incidents in which the perpetrator was male	100%	79%	89%
Average age of male perpetrators (when known)	46 years	46 years	43 years
Average age difference in intimate partner murder-suicides (when known)	5 years	5 years	6 years
Number of children killed (includes biological children over age 18)	6	1	1
Percentage of all recorded incidents that were among the elderly (victim and/or perpetrator was over 60 years of age)	14%	32%	18%

National Domestic Violence Statistics

- ♦ **1 in 4 American women** will **experience domestic violence** at some point in her lifetime.²
- ♦ Since 1976, each year about **30%** of all female murder victims are **killed by their intimate partner**.³
- ♦ **85%** of domestic violence is **committed by men against women**.³
- ♦ **Women and men in same-sex relationships** experience domestic violence at the **same rates** as heterosexual women.⁴
- ♦ **Immigrants and refugees** experience violence at the **same rates as other communities**.⁵ However, immigrants and refugees experience increased barriers to services due to language access and fear about their immigration status.⁸
- ♦ **15.5 million children** witnessed domestic violence at least once **in the past year**.⁶
- ♦ Women are **more likely to be killed** by their partner **with a firearm** than **by all other means combined**.⁷

1-800-33-HAVEN (voice/TTY)

If you or someone you know is being abused, there are community and statewide resources available to you. Call the toll-free, 24-hour hotline for a confidential place to get help and find resources.

For more information:

Georgia Commission on Family Violence
www.gcfv.org

1. Georgia Domestic Violence Media Watch, Georgia Commission on Family Violence (2013).
2. Black, M., et al. (2008). "Adverse Health Conditions and Health Risk Behaviors Associated with Intimate Partner Violence." *CDC: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 57 (5).
3. U.S. Department of Justice (2000). Intimate Partner Violence Special Report. www.ojp.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ipv.pdf.
4. Turell, S. C. (2000). "A descriptive analysis of same-sex relationship violence for a diverse sample." *Journal of Family Violence*. 15(3).
5. Tjaden P., & Thoennes, N. (2000). "Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women." National Institute of Justice. www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/183781.pdf.
6. Whitfield, C., et al. (2003). "Violent Childhood Experiences and the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence in Adults." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 18 (2).
7. Paulozzi, L., et al. (2001). "Surveillance for Homicide Among Intimate Partners." *CDC: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 50 (3).
8. Dutton, M. A., Orloff, L., & Hass, G.A. (2000). "Characteristics of help-seeking behaviors, resources, and services needs of battered immigrant Latinas: Legal and policy implications." *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*. 7(2).